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## APRIL 2011 CONSTRUCTION AT \$765.0 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during April 2011 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$765.0 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ )\* above the revised March estimate of \$762.1 billion. The April figure is 9.3 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ ) below the April 2010 estimate of \$843.1 billion.

During the first 4 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$222.7 billion, 8.4 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) below the \$243.0 billion for the same period in 2010.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$483.0 billion, 1.7 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) above the revised March estimate of \$474.7 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$232.1 billion in April, 3.1 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the revised March estimate of \$225.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$250.8 billion in April, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )\* above the revised March estimate of \$249.6 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In April, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$282.0 billion, 1.9 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )\* below the revised March estimate of \$287.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$67.3 billion, 2.7 percent ( $\pm 3.4\%$ )\* below the revised March estimate of \$69.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$77.5 billion, 1.6 percent ( $\pm 7.8\%$ )\* below the revised March estimate of \$78.7 billion.

*May 2011 data will be released on July 1, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. EDT.*

*For more detailed data and methodologies, go to our website:*

<http://www.census.gov/constructionspending>

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

In interpreting changes in the statistics in this release, note that month-to-month changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show movements which may be irregular. It may take 2 months to establish an underlying trend for total construction and as long as 8 months for specific categories of construction. The statistics in this release are estimated from several sources and surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimates of the standard errors are provided in Table 3. Whenever a statement such as "2.3 ( $\pm 3.1$ ) percent above" appears in the text, this indicates the range (-0.8 to +5.4 percent) in which the actual percent change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given are 90 percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range does not contain zero, the change is statistically significant. If it does contain zero, the change is not statistically significant; that is, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. Statistics for the current month are preliminary estimates subject to revision in following months as additional data become available. The average absolute percent changes from preliminary estimate to first revision for the major seasonally adjusted components are as follows: total construction, 1.1 percent; private construction, 1.6 percent; and public construction, 1.3 percent.

In the May 2011 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2009.

\* 90% confidence interval includes zero. The U.S. Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

**Table 1. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate**

(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	Apr 2011 <sup>P</sup>	Mar 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2011	Dec 2010	Apr 2010	Percent change Apr 2011 from -	
							Mar 2011	Apr 2010
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>764,981</b>	<b>762,072</b>	<b>761,020</b>	<b>776,877</b>	<b>784,800</b>	<b>843,148</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-9.3</b>
Residential	240,859	233,655	235,510	249,289	238,427	273,686	3.1	-12.0
Nonresidential	524,122	528,417	525,511	527,587	546,374	569,461	-0.8	-8.0
Lodging	8,168	8,586	8,369	7,876	9,889	11,630	-4.9	-29.8
Office	33,505	34,146	34,225	34,354	34,600	38,295	-1.9	-12.5
Commercial	39,213	39,648	39,849	38,684	37,807	41,929	-1.1	-6.5
Health care	40,497	39,805	39,498	39,118	40,017	39,549	1.7	2.4
Educational	80,631	81,991	80,241	81,990	81,279	87,810	-1.7	-8.2
Religious	4,461	4,588	4,404	4,891	4,872	5,476	-2.8	-18.5
Public safety	10,564	10,624	10,449	10,202	9,983	12,566	-0.6	-15.9
Amusement and recreation	15,104	15,657	15,732	15,505	16,550	16,931	-3.5	-10.8
Transportation	37,753	39,531	38,459	39,116	38,510	42,868	-4.5	-11.9
Communication	18,145	17,371	17,808	17,545	18,006	18,107	4.5	0.2
Power	82,609	80,598	79,647	78,801	93,427	80,662	2.5	2.4
Highway and street	77,503	78,804	80,240	83,679	84,450	82,227	-1.7	-5.7
Sewage and waste disposal	22,279	22,869	22,744	23,691	24,715	25,041	-2.6	-11.0
Water supply	14,027	14,086	14,941	15,672	15,229	15,052	-0.4	-6.8
Conservation and development	6,828	6,982	7,303	6,906	6,514	6,529	-2.2	4.6
Manufacturing	32,836	33,131	31,602	29,560	30,526	44,790	-0.9	-26.7
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>482,959</b>	<b>474,659</b>	<b>472,589</b>	<b>479,988</b>	<b>486,949</b>	<b>538,350</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>-10.3</b>
Residential	232,134	225,071	226,564	239,619	229,071	264,229	3.1	-12.1
New single family	104,674	105,683	106,893	108,129	107,083	120,080	-1.0	-12.8
New multi-family	12,839	12,846	13,068	12,686	13,129	13,894	-0.1	-7.6
Nonresidential	250,825	249,588	246,025	240,369	257,878	274,121	0.5	-8.5
Lodging	7,668	8,024	7,907	7,408	9,100	11,328	-4.4	-32.3
Office	21,643	22,356	22,265	22,298	22,937	25,153	-3.2	-14.0
Commercial	35,844	36,314	36,693	35,504	34,890	39,462	-1.3	-9.2
Health care	29,828	29,581	29,523	28,721	30,177	30,286	0.8	-1.5
Educational	13,286	12,786	12,230	12,052	12,627	14,154	3.9	-6.1
Religious	4,428	4,559	4,382	4,870	4,833	5,410	-2.9	-18.2
Amusement and recreation	5,483	5,338	5,297	5,435	6,093	6,545	2.7	-16.2
Transportation	8,441	9,074	9,600	9,583	9,031	8,297	-7.0	1.7
Communication	18,129	17,318	17,798	17,538	17,988	18,054	4.7	0.4
Power	72,301	70,071	68,056	66,832	78,930	70,076	3.2	3.2
Manufacturing	32,247	32,579	31,008	28,933	30,019	44,122	-1.0	-26.9
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>282,022</b>	<b>287,413</b>	<b>288,432</b>	<b>296,889</b>	<b>297,852</b>	<b>304,798</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-7.5</b>
Residential	8,725	8,584	8,946	9,671	9,355	9,457	1.6	-7.7
Nonresidential	273,297	278,830	279,486	287,218	288,496	295,341	-2.0	-7.5
Office	11,862	11,791	11,960	12,055	11,663	13,142	0.6	-9.7
Commercial	3,369	3,334	3,156	3,180	2,917	2,467	1.0	36.6
Health care	10,669	10,224	9,975	10,398	9,839	9,263	4.4	15.2
Educational	67,344	69,205	68,010	69,938	68,653	73,656	-2.7	-8.6
Public safety	10,380	10,475	10,350	10,124	9,909	12,212	-0.9	-15.0
Amusement and recreation	9,621	10,319	10,435	10,070	10,457	10,386	-6.8	-7.4
Transportation	29,311	30,457	28,858	29,533	29,479	34,571	-3.8	-15.2
Power	10,308	10,528	11,591	11,969	14,497	10,586	-2.1	-2.6
Highway and street	77,483	78,721	80,168	83,593	84,335	82,090	-1.6	-5.6
Sewage and waste disposal	21,591	22,148	22,294	23,207	24,266	24,642	-2.5	-12.4
Water supply	13,401	13,486	14,336	15,159	14,624	14,722	-0.6	-9.0
Conservation and development	6,821	6,947	7,265	6,871	6,504	6,518	-1.8	4.6

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary <sup>r</sup>Revised

<sup>1</sup>Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

<sup>2</sup>Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

**Table 2. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Not Seasonally Adjusted**

(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	Apr 2011 <sup>P</sup>	Mar 2011 <sup>F</sup>	Feb 2011 <sup>F</sup>	Jan 2011	Dec 2010	Apr 2010	Year-to-date		
							Apr 2011	Apr 2010	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>61,680</b>	<b>56,916</b>	<b>51,524</b>	<b>52,611</b>	<b>59,763</b>	<b>68,259</b>	<b>222,731</b>	<b>243,044</b>	<b>-8.4</b>
Residential	20,156	17,122	14,947	16,329	16,966	22,585	68,555	75,861	-9.6
Nonresidential	41,525	39,794	36,576	36,282	42,797	45,673	154,176	167,183	-7.8
Lodging	681	716	697	656	824	969	2,750	4,284	-35.8
Office	2,794	2,734	2,607	2,575	2,779	3,225	10,710	12,709	-15.7
Commercial	3,254	3,131	2,932	2,773	2,934	3,478	12,090	13,156	-8.1
Health care	3,377	3,225	3,026	3,014	3,297	3,305	12,642	12,707	-0.5
Educational	6,337	6,037	5,521	5,668	5,992	6,946	23,563	26,110	-9.8
Religious	358	363	337	369	394	438	1,426	1,734	-17.8
Public safety	859	848	765	757	838	1,014	3,230	3,949	-18.2
Amusement and recreation	1,253	1,225	1,125	1,083	1,297	1,451	4,686	4,995	-6.2
Transportation	3,031	2,907	2,655	2,760	3,029	3,406	11,354	11,747	-3.3
Communication	1,430	1,471	1,263	1,125	1,812	1,469	5,288	5,373	-1.6
Power	6,682	6,660	6,276	6,145	8,151	6,624	25,763	25,494	1.1
Highway and street	5,307	4,468	3,857	3,876	5,164	5,867	17,508	17,693	-1.0
Sewage and waste disposal	1,770	1,725	1,569	1,642	1,920	2,023	6,707	7,229	-7.2
Water supply	1,144	1,108	1,071	1,089	1,169	1,243	4,411	4,322	2.1
Conservation and development	517	563	532	524	587	519	2,136	1,884	13.4
Manufacturing	2,731	2,615	2,342	2,226	2,609	3,698	9,914	13,798	-28.1
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>40,018</b>	<b>36,689</b>	<b>33,053</b>	<b>33,769</b>	<b>38,137</b>	<b>44,441</b>	<b>143,530</b>	<b>160,409</b>	<b>-10.5</b>
Residential	19,457	16,476	14,293	15,636	16,203	21,809	65,861	73,149	-10.0
New single family	8,421	8,147	6,921	7,346	7,869	9,637	30,835	33,783	-8.7
New multi-family	1,084	1,042	1,019	959	1,035	1,172	4,104	4,798	-14.5
Nonresidential	20,562	20,213	18,760	18,134	21,935	22,633	77,668	87,260	-11.0
Lodging	639	669	659	617	758	944	2,584	4,196	-38.4
Office	1,817	1,811	1,725	1,676	1,835	2,128	7,029	8,487	-17.2
Commercial	2,996	2,869	2,692	2,533	2,687	3,285	11,090	12,297	-9.8
Health care	2,478	2,373	2,239	2,201	2,488	2,525	9,291	9,798	-5.2
Educational	1,105	993	885	869	970	1,183	3,852	4,459	-13.6
Religious	355	360	335	367	391	432	1,418	1,713	-17.2
Amusement and recreation	472	445	416	417	489	574	1,751	1,989	-12.0
Transportation	675	675	696	743	723	675	2,790	2,439	14.4
Communication	1,429	1,466	1,262	1,124	1,811	1,464	5,281	5,359	-1.5
Power	5,791	5,859	5,471	5,329	7,113	5,681	22,450	22,510	-0.3
Manufacturing	2,682	2,569	2,293	2,174	2,567	3,642	9,718	13,612	-28.6
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>21,662</b>	<b>20,227</b>	<b>18,471</b>	<b>18,842</b>	<b>21,625</b>	<b>23,817</b>	<b>79,202</b>	<b>82,635</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
Residential	699	646	654	694	763	777	2,693	2,712	-0.7
Nonresidential	20,963	19,581	17,816	18,148	20,862	23,041	76,508	79,924	-4.3
Office	977	923	882	899	944	1,097	3,681	4,222	-12.8
Commercial	258	262	240	240	247	193	1,000	860	16.3
Health care	898	852	787	813	809	780	3,350	2,909	15.2
Educational	5,232	5,044	4,636	4,799	5,021	5,763	19,711	21,651	-9.0
Public safety	843	836	758	752	833	985	3,189	3,819	-16.5
Amusement and recreation	782	779	709	666	809	876	2,935	3,005	-2.3
Transportation	2,356	2,232	1,959	2,017	2,306	2,731	8,564	9,308	-8.0
Power	891	801	805	816	1,038	943	3,313	2,984	11.0
Highway and street	5,306	4,463	3,853	3,870	5,156	5,857	17,492	17,659	-0.9
Sewage and waste disposal	1,714	1,669	1,538	1,609	1,884	1,991	6,530	7,109	-8.1
Water supply	1,096	1,059	1,031	1,054	1,116	1,216	4,240	4,208	0.8
Conservation and development	516	560	529	521	587	519	2,126	1,881	13.0

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary <sup>F</sup>Revised

<sup>1</sup>Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

<sup>2</sup>Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Table 3. **Coefficients of Variation and Standard Errors by Type of Construction**  
(Percent)

Type of Construction	Coefficient of variation		Standard error		
	Monthly estimate	Year-to-date estimate	Year-to-date change	Month-to-month change	Month-to-month change from prev. year
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Residential	3.6	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.3
Nonresidential	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1
Lodging	5.1	5.1	4.0	2.5	3.7
Office	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.4	2.3
Commercial	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.6	3.4
Health care	2.1	1.8	2.1	3.1	3.5
Educational	2.1	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.4
Religious	6.2	6.6	6.3	3.6	6.8
Public safety	3.0	2.4	2.3	3.2	2.7
Amusement and recreation	4.0	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.7
Transportation	2.7	2.4	2.2	3.0	3.2
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.6	1.4
Highway and street	3.5	2.9	4.0	4.8	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.4
Water supply	3.8	3.1	4.3	4.0	5.4
Conservation and development	3.1	2.4	3.4	3.2	3.1
Manufacturing	1.8	1.3	2.1	1.2	2.5
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
New single family	5.0	4.0	6.8	6.0	6.0
New multi-family	10.9	10.9	6.2	4.6	5.8
Nonresidential	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.3
Lodging	5.3	5.3	4.0	2.7	3.7
Office	3.2	3.3	3.0	1.9	3.3
Commercial	3.5	2.9	2.6	2.7	3.3
Health care	2.7	2.4	2.4	3.3	3.7
Educational	3.7	3.4	3.6	2.5	4.7
Religious	6.3	6.7	6.4	3.7	6.9
Amusement and recreation	4.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.5
Transportation	7.3	7.0	11.9	8.7	10.8
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.2	1.1
Manufacturing	1.9	1.4	2.2	1.3	2.5
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Residential	3.6	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.3
Nonresidential	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.5
Office	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.1	3.1
Commercial	6.5	6.2	12.4	7.4	16.4
Health care	2.9	2.8	3.7	6.6	7.7
Educational	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.1	2.7
Public safety	3.0	2.4	2.3	3.2	2.7
Amusement and recreation	5.6	4.9	5.5	5.1	5.8
Transportation	2.8	2.5	2.2	3.1	3.3
Power	5.8	3.4	7.6	4.7	7.1
Highway and street	3.6	2.9	4.0	4.9	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.3
Water supply	3.9	3.2	4.4	4.1	5.5
Conservation and development	3.0	2.4	3.4	3.2	3.1

NA Not applicable